

May 19, 2024

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Rev. Stephen J. Niermann, Pastor  
Miss Tracy Germann, Principal

Church: 419-598-8961 Home: 419-598-8181  
School: 419-598-8702  
Church Website: [www.sjl.org](http://www.sjl.org)

### THE DAY OF PENTECOST

Sermon & Text – Thursday (5-16): “One of Two Ways” *Acts 2:11b-13*

Sunday: “Convicted” *John 16:7-11*

Order of Service: See printed Service Folder

Hymns: 497 ~ (“Called and Gathered”) ~ 502 ~ 687 ~ [Communion: 496, 913] ~ 650

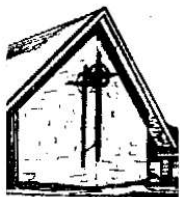
Adult Choir: “As We Break the Bread”

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### WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

*A warm welcome to all, especially friends and relatives of our Confirmation Class. If you are visiting with us this morning, help us get to know you better by filling out the blue Rite of Fellowship card from the pew rack in front of you and drop it in the baskets at the door as you leave today. You can also register your name in the Guest Book in the Narthex, if you choose.*

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### **SERVING IN GOD’S HOUSE THIS MORNING**

- ✠ Sharon Damman, *Organist* ✠ Erin Damman, *Acolyte* ✠
- ✠ Mike Maassel, Scott Van Valkenburg, Ian Rosebrook, Carey Damman, *Ushers* ✠
- ✠ Anita Badenhop, Pat Maassel, Kathy Behnfeldt, *Altar Guild* ✠

**CONFIRMATION 2024** – This morning we rejoice to witness the confirmation of three catechumens as they confess their Christian faith and receive the Lord’s Supper for the first time. This is a day of rejoicing for them and for this congregation! This year’s confirmation class theme is, “**Convicted**,” based on the words of our Lord in today’s Gospel reading, “*When he (the Holy Spirit) comes, he will convict the world.*” (*John 16:8*).

Our catechumens are: **Nolan Lee Bickel, Cayden Andrew Ruffer, and Evelyn Leigh Szabo.**

Please keep them in your prayers as they join us at the Lord’s Table today, that God may strengthen them in faith to life eternal!

**SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY** is cancelled on this Day of Pentecost so that the Pastor can be with the confirmands and their families for photography. We will meet again next Sunday to consider the final unit in our study on miracles.



## In God's House This Week

Online church calendar: <https://74058984.view-events.com>

Date	Time	Activities
Today	9:00 AM 10:20AM 1:30 PM	<b>Confirmation and Communion Service</b> Sunday School; "The Lamp" Gerald Busy Fingers & Cloverbuds 4-H Meetings
Tues.	6:00 PM 7:00 PM	<i>GriefShare</i> Ministry Support Group (until 7:30 PM) Women of Freedom Meeting
Wed.	12:45PM 6:30 PM 8:00 PM	Preschool 3-yr old Last Day Track & Field Day for Gr. K-7 ( <i>see note</i> ) <b>Preschool 4/5-yr old Graduation in sanctuary</b> Adult Choir Practice <b>(NOTE TIME CHANGE)</b>
Thurs.	12:45PM 2:00 PM 7:00 PM	Preschool 4/5-yr old Last Day Last Student Day (Gr. K-7) <b>Closing Chapel</b> ; Academic & Attendance Awards; AR Awards Early Dismissal <b>Thursday Worship Service</b>
Sun.	9:00 AM 10:20AM	<b>Worship Service &amp; High School Graduate Recognition</b> Adult Bible Study

**MATTERS FOR PRAYER** – Please keep these people in your prayers:

- ❖ *Melba Elling, Norma Damman, and Elaine Hesterman (rehabbing)*, at Genacross
- ❖ *Lawrence Behrmann*, at Northcrest Nursing & Rehab
- ❖ Our Shut-Ins: *Irene Joost, Leona Durham, and Elaine Mahnke*
- ❖ Military: *Justin Atkinson, Jason Rohrs, Emily Carmon, Jared Dishop, Jordan Lange*
- ❖ *Alan Gruenhagen and Lowell Petzoldt*, dealing with health concerns related to cancer
- ❖ *Steve Miller*, recuperating from back surgery last week

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** There will be no Sunday School during the months of June, July, and August. We will resume Sunday School on September 8<sup>th</sup>, which will be promotion Sunday.

**WOMEN OF FREEDOM:** The next Women of Freedom meeting will be held on Tues., May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM. All women are encouraged to come to our meetings. We look forward to seeing you there.

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE RECOGNITION** – Next Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, we invite all of you high school graduates to gather with us in the worship service for graduate recognition. We'll remember your confirmation theme, we'll ask you about your plans for the future, and commend those plans to God in prayer. In the meantime, we'd appreciate having a picture of each graduate that we can project during the recognition. Email them to *Pastor Niermann* at [pastor@sjl.org](mailto:pastor@sjl.org) or drop a picture off in the office during the school day.

<b>FINANCIAL FACTS:</b>	Home Fund	Synod & Missions	Building Fund
Weekly Need	\$9,792.78	\$500.00	\$961.54
Rec'd 05/12/24	\$5,980.00	\$150.00	\$205.00

**ATTENDANCE:** Thursday (5/9/24) – 108; Sunday (5/12/24) – 190

**CIRCUIT ASCENSION DAY SERVICE:** \$1,151.00 LCMS World Relief; \$130 – Home Fund



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** has been set for June 3-7 from 9:00 to 11:30 each morning, Monday through Friday. Our theme this year is, **CELEBRATE THE SAVIOR**. In a fair-like setting we will learn about lots of people who celebrated Jesus: the wise men, the healed paralytic, the witnesses of the resurrection, and more. Of all the blessings God gives us,

His Son, Jesus is the biggest reason to celebrate. Join us for the best fair of them all! To enroll a student, or to volunteer as a helper, please visit our VBS website at [vbsmate.com/stjohnfreedomvbs24](http://vbsmate.com/stjohnfreedomvbs24)

- A link for our VBS website is also provided on our homepage at [sjl.org](http://sjl.org).
- If you prefer, you can register a student using the paper forms available in the narthex.



**GRIEF SHARE** is a class offered at St. John for those grieving the loss of a loved one, meets on Tuesday evenings 6 - 7:30 p.m. from now until May 21. It is led by the team of Nancy Nemoyer, a member of St. John and Rev. Robert Bartz, interim pastor of Emmaus, Wauseon. You are invited to pray each week for the comfort of participants and the wisdom of the leaders.

**THIS WEEK**, the final week of GriefShare, the topic is "What do I Live for Now?" We have the opportunity to remember our loved ones and honor them, hear and explore unique ways to preserve memories and regain a sense of purpose. What does God want me to do now?

**THURSDAY EVENING SERVICES** – Thursday evening services are underway. Each Thursday services is a preview the coming Sunday service, with Communion on the Thursdays prior to Communion Sundays. **Special notes:**

- 1) *Thursday, May 30, the Sunday prior to Pastor Niermann's retirement day, there will be no Thursday evening service.*
- 2) *It looks like there will be Thursday services during June and July, with the possible exception of the first Thursday of June.*

**WANTED – JAVA JOY HOSTS** We are looking for a few people or groups of people to host JAVA JOY on the second Sundays of the remaining months of 2024. Please remember that hosting does not need to cost you anything – you may reimburse yourself from the Java Joy kitty. Also, hosting guidelines are available next to the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Thank you for providing this wonderful service for the fellowship and enjoyment of your church family.



**SAFETY FEATURES ADDED:** You may notice a few safety upgrades recently at St. John. One is that the main school doors, which are locked during school hours, are now locked before school hours as well. All visitors will need to buzz in and be let in by the office. Reminder that all visitors should report to the office upon entering the building to sign in.

Another safety precaution you will notice is that there are barriers in place on both sides of the playground area to prevent cars from driving into the playground area during the school day. This change is an added way to keep children safe while on the playground during the school week. We appreciate your patience and support as we work to do everything possible to keep the students safe during the school day.

**PTL PIZZA FUNDRAISER:** Thank you all for the big response we received for the Brick-N-Brew pizza fundraiser. There were over 430 pizzas made by a very energetic crew of St. John parents. It truly was an all hands on deck time for PTL to come together and share stories and laughs while making a lot of pizzas. A special thanks to Margo Behnfeldt for her organizational skills and to Micah Behnfeldt for his guidance in directing the pizza assembly process. And a shout out to Brick-N-Brew for donating 50% of the sales back to the PTL. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

**A REMINDER:** If you ordered Brick-N-Brew pizzas and have not picked them up, please stop in at the school and do so during school hours. Thank you!

**PASTOR'S RETIREMENT SERVICE AND DINNER – Sunday, June 2**

Two weeks from today Pastor Niermann will be retiring from full-time ministry and from the pastoral office at St. John Lutheran. **Sunday, June 2** will be his final Sunday. Pastor will preach his farewell sermon and administer the sacrament for us one last time. Worship that morning will be an hour later than normal, at 10:00 a.m. A door offering as a gift for Pastor will be received. After worship we can proceed to the Ridgeville Legion Hall where there will be some time before dinner to greet Pastor and to mingle. The retirement dinner will begin at 12:00 noon.

**FULL-TIME SCHOOL SECRETARIAL POSITION:** **We are now accepting résumés from anyone interested in applying for the full-time position of School Secretary.** This is a fulltime position, working year-round. Requirements are a high school diploma, an accounting background, a good familiarity with Word, Excel, and Google Drive, computer use, and the ability to maintain a strict confidence. An Associate Degree in the secretarial field is a bonus. Applicants must be willing to submit a résumé, obtain a background check, supply three references, and must adhere to the religious beliefs of St. John Lutheran Church. Resumes should be emailed to [tgermann@sjl.org](mailto:tgermann@sjl.org), or dropped off at the school office.

**PART-TIME CHURCH SECRETARY POSITION** – **We are currently seeking applicants for a part-time church secretary.** This job would involve working two days per week (probably later in the week). Required are a high school diploma, an accounting background, a good familiarity with word processing, data base and computer use, and the ability to maintain a strict confidence. An Associate Degree in the secretarial field is a bonus. Applicants must be willing to submit a résumé, obtain a background check, supply three references, and must adhere to the religious beliefs of St. John Lutheran Church. If you know someone interested, please call the church office at 419-598-8961.

**LUTHERAN WITNESS RENEWAL** – It's time to renew your subscription to the Lutheran Witness for this year. To subscribe or renew your subscription, **simply place \$20.75 in an envelope**, along with your name and address, and place it in the Sunday collection plate or bring it to the church office. **Deadline for subscriptions is May 26<sup>th</sup>.**

**COUNCIL MINUTES** – This is just a reminder that council meeting minutes are not published until they are approved a month later. If you would like to read about the most recent council meeting, an unofficial and unapproved copy of the minutes is available for viewing in the church office, usually within a week after the meeting.

**PRESCHOOL GRADUATION:** This year our 4-yr preschool graduation will be held on Wed., May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary, with a reception to follow. Everyone is invited to this big day for the 4-year olds. The next day on Thursday, May 23, the 4-year old preschool class will have their last day of school. **School for them will dismiss at 11:30 following an end of the year celebration.**

**PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT** – The St. John Lutheran Preschool is now accepting enrollment applications for 2024-25 school year. Anyone interested in enrolling your child in our preschool program should contact the school office at 419-598-8702 to request an enrollment packet.

**SCRIP FOR GRADUATION:** Why not use the PTL SCRIP Program to order gift cards for those graduating seniors in your lives. Order forms are available online via FastDirect or in the tract rack at the narthex table. Please turn those orders in on Wednesdays, with payment to *St. John School PTL Scrip Program*. The gift cards will be sent home the following week on Tuesday. Payment must accompany orders. **Any questions about SCRIP can be directed to SCRIP Coordinator Kristyn Honemann at 419-966-0207 or email at [honemann@embarqmail.com](mailto:honemann@embarqmail.com).**

**INTERESTED IN A CHURCH PROFESSION? WE'D LIKE TO HELP!** Over the years a number of young people from St. John have pursued educational goals to prepare them for full-time service as teachers and pastors. If you are interested in a church profession (*as a pastor, deaconess, teacher, lay minister, or a Director of Christian Education, Christian Outreach, Parish Music, or Family Life Ministry*), our congregation would like to support you by offering a tuition gift. An application for this gift is available online --- type **[www.sjl.org/student\\_gift\\_app.pdf](http://www.sjl.org/student_gift_app.pdf)** into your browser (*there is no link*) and fill out the application. Deadline for fall enrollment is June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**WOMEN OF FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIPS:** Here is another opportunity to encourage and help young people prepare for service to the church as pastors, teachers, lay workers, deaconesses, etc. \$500 per year Women of Freedom Scholarships are available to any young person attending one of our synodical schools. Simply contact any Women of Freedom member for more details about this.

**PIERSTORF COLLEGE FUND:** The Pierstorf College Fund is a one-of-a-kind pan Lutheran financial aid program that provides interest-free loans to all Lutherans pursuing a higher education who live in the State of Ohio. These loans are specific to students who are or will be enrolled full time in a four-year undergraduate program at any accredited college or university. For information, visit [www.Pierstorf.org](http://www.Pierstorf.org) to complete the online 2024-2025 application. Application deadline is June 30, 2024. Questions can be emailed to [Pierstorf@messiahfp.org](mailto:Pierstorf@messiahfp.org).

**TRACK & FIELD DAY:** St. John Track & Field Day will be on Wed., May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12:45–2:45. This will be held on the playground area where various track and field events will be setup. There will be events for all Kindergarten thru Gr.7 students. Parents are invited to come and watch, or help out.

**LAST DAY OF SCHOOL AT ST. JOHN FOR GRADES K-7** is Fri., May 24<sup>th</sup> with early dismissal at 2:00 PM. Closing Day festivities include: Chapel at 12:45 PM; Presidential academic awards; and attendance and AR awards. Classroom awards will be handed out in the classrooms earlier in the day. All parents are welcome and encouraged to come.

**ANNUAL SCHOOL CLEANING DATES** have been set for Mon., July 22 and Wed., July 24 starting at 5:00 PM both nights. Please read the Parent Participation Policy in FastDirect with all the details about family requirements for School Cleaning. The carpets will be cleaned on Tues., July 23, so no cleaning is done on Tuesday.

**ST. JOHN GIRLS B-BALL OPEN GYMS:** Coach Schroeder will be holding open gyms for girls who are going into Grades K-6 next school year. These will be held at St. John from 10 – 11:30 AM on the following dates: July 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24. Informational flyers are available on the narthex table. Any questions...call Coach Schroeder at 419-591-6655.

**WORSHIP ANEW:** Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. produces a weekly, 30-minute Lutheran broadcast worship service called Worship Anew (*formerly Worship For Shut-Ins*). Each service includes music, scripture readings, prayers, and a pastor delivering a message that is designed to feel one-on-one to the viewer. They look forward to the continuation and expansion of this ministry in the years to come. Lutheran Ministries Media would like to thank you for your prayers and support of God's work through Worship Anew. Broadcasts can be viewed every Sunday on: *Toledo's WTVG (CW) Channel 13.2 at 10:30 AM.*

**'BREAD FROM HEAVEN'** – A note to St. John members needing food assistance – If you could use food assistance from our food pantry, please speak with *Pastor Niermann*. We are required by the *Northwestern Ohio Food Bank* to keep a record with your name, but pastor will keep your record separate and absolutely confidential.

Contributions can be made at any time. Monetary gifts can be given to the *Good Neighbor Fund* (note it on your offering envelope). Food donations for our pantry can be dropped off in the box by the Archives display cases. **Food items especially needed at this time are: spaghetti sauce, noodles, soup, saltines and any crackers.** Any and all contributions are always greatly appreciated. Thank you so much!

**DRIVE-THRU CHICKEN BBQ:** Today from 11 a.m. until gone, the Ridgeville Volunteer Fire Dept will be hosting a Drive-thru Chicken BBQ at the fire station. The menu is: ½ Brookview Chicken, Twice-baked Potato, and Dessert. Freewill donation!

**MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE:** The Ridgeville Corners Memorial Day service to remember those who served our country will be held on **Mon., May 27 at 10:30 AM** at the Ridgeville American Legion. **Flag Drill:** Children age PreK thru 4<sup>th</sup> Grade are invited to participate in the flag drill during the Ridgeville Memorial Day service. Practices will be held on Tues., May 21 & Thurs., May 23 at 6:30 PM. Call *Laura Bickel* at 419-267-5203 or *Jenny Behnfeldt* at 419-267-5636 for questions or more info on the flag drill.

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### **Food For Thought...**

**The church is a gift from God; assembly required.**

*"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another." (Hebrew 10:24-25)*